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HEADER

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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, PINR, RS, UP
SUBJECT: VIETNAM WAR WORKING GROUP INTERVIEWS OF VITEBSKAYA
OBLAST, BELARUS VIETNAM WAR **VETERANS** ((RESEND OF 071500Z APR
MSG))
REF: SHIPP MFR ON VIETNAM WAR WORKING GROUP VISIT TO VITEBSKAYA
OBLAST DATED 20 FEBRUARY 2003
VIETNAM WAR WORKING GROUP VISIT TO VITEBSKAYA OBLAST', BELARUS'

1. BACKGROUND: **JCSD**-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS W. SHIPP JR. AND MATTHEW DIMMICK TRAVELED TO VITEBSKAYA OBLAST, BELARUS FROM 16-20 FEBRUARY 2003. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO **INTERVIEW** 24 FORMER SOVIET **VETERANS** WHO SAW SERVICE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE WAR YEARS.
2. INTERVIEWS. **JCSD**-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS W. SHIPP JR. AND MATTHEW DIMMICK LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED THE FOLLOWING VITEBASKAYA OBLAST SOVIET **VETERANS** OF SOUTHEAST ASIA:
 - A. COLONEL (RET.) EVGENIJ EFIMOVICH BORISENKO: COL. BORISENKO SERVED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) AND LAOS FROM 1961-1962. BORISENKO SERVED WITH THE 708TH AIR TRANSPORTATION AVIATION REGIMENT (VTAP) WHILE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. BORISENKO DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF US AIRCREW SHOT DOWN OR LOST IN LAOS. BORISENKO CLAIMED THAT HE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY HOSTILE ACTION WHILE ASSIGNED TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. COLONEL PETR DMITRIEVICH PONASEV WAS BORISENKO'S COMMANDER. BORISENKO CLAIMED HE COULD NOT REMEMBER ANY OTHER SOVIET OFFICERS WITH WHOM HE SERVED WHILE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. COL. BORISENKO

CURRENTLY RESIDES IN VITEBSK.

B. COLONEL (RET.) PETR DMITRIEVICH PONASEV: COL. PONASEV SERVED IN THE DRV AND LAOS FROM 1961-1962. HE WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE 708TH VTAP. COL. PONASEV INFORMED **JCSD**-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN INTERVIEWED BY "ROBERT" AND DID NOT HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION TO TELL **JCSD**. WHEN PRESSED, COL. PONASEV REITERATED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT MISSING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. COL. PONASEV CURRENTLY RESIDES IN VITEBSK.

C. LT. COLONEL (RET.) ARKADIJ ANUFREEVICH MASHEDO: LT. COL. MASHEDO SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1964-1966. MASHEDO CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY **JCSD**-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES. MASHEDO CLAIMED HE HAD NO INFORMATION OF USE TO **JCSD**. LT. COL. MASHEDO CURRENTLY RESIDES IN BOGUSHEVSK.

D. COLONEL ALEKSANDR FOMICH RYKHLOV: COL. RYKHLOV SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1967-1968. COL. RYKHLOV WAS A RADAR REPAIR SPECIALIST AND WAS ASSIGNED TO KIM LIEN, DRV.

COL. RYKHLOV CLAIMED THAT HE NEVER SAW ANY AMERICAN PLANES SHOT DOWN. RYKHLOV DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF CAPTURED AMERICANS. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE WOULD NOT ALLOW SOVIETS TO HAVE ANY ACCESS TO AMERICAN PRISONERS OR CRASH SITES. HE STATED THAT THIS WAS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND THAT HE NEVER REQUESTED TO VISIT ANY AMERICAN CRASH SITES, OR AMERICANS. HE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF A "SPECIAL GROUP" WHOSE MISSION WAS TO EXPLOIT CRASH SITES AND GATHER AMERICAN MILITARY HARDWARE AND TECHNOLOGY.

COL. RYKHLOV WOULD NOT PROVIDE **JCSD** WITH ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS FELLOW SERVICEMEN IN THE DRV. COL. RYKHLOV RESIDES IN POLOTSK.

E. COLONEL (RET.) ALEKSEJ TERENT'EVICH SMIRNOV: COL. SMIRNOV SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1968-1969. COL. SMIRNOV WAS ASSIGNED TO A LOCATION CLOSE TO THE 17TH PARALLEL. HE COULD NOT RECALL HIS UNIT'S DESIGNATOR.

COL. SMIRNOV CLAIMED TO HAVE WITNESS TWO F-105 AIRCRAFT BEING SHOT DOWN SOMETIME IN THE SUMMER OF 1969. HE CLAIMED THAT ONE PILOT WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BECAUSE HIS PARACHUTE DID NOT DEPLOY PROPERLY. HE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR PILOT.

ACCORDING TO SMIRNOV, THE VIETNAMESE MILITIA QUICKLY CAPTURED THE REMAINING PILOT. COL. SMIRNOV STATED HE DID NOT REMEMBER ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THIS INCIDENT. HE COULD NOT RECALL THE EXACT TIME OF YEAR, DATE, OR MONTH OF THE INCIDENT.

HE LIKEWISE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY DESCRIPTION OF THE CAPTURED PILOT BECAUSE HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE INCIDENT TO BE ABLE TO

DESCRIBE ANYONE INVOLVED IN IT. HE REITERATED THAT HE WITNESSED EVERYTHING FROM A DISTANCE AND THAT HIS MEMORY IS VERY FAULTY. HE APOLOGIZED FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

COL. SMIRNOV SUGGESTED THAT **JCSD**-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT COL. (RET.) NIKOLAY FILIPPOV (NFI) AND COL. (RET.) OLEG TRUSHKIN BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THEY ALSO WITNESSED THIS INCIDENT. (**JCSD**-MOSCOW NOTE: A COL. OLEG IVANOICH TRUSHKIN WHO LIVES IN THE VILLAGE OF "ZARYA" IN THE MOSCOW OBLAST. **JCSD** WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT TRUSHKIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.)

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COL. SMIRNOV HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOVIET "SPECIAL GROUP." COL. SMIRNOV RESIDES IN DOKSHINY.

F. LT. COL. (RET.) YURIJ GEORGIEVICH IVANOV: LT. COL. IVANOV SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1968-1969. LT. COL. IVANOV WAS A MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE 10TH TRAINING CENTER (**JCSD**-MOSCOW NOTE: ALSO KNOWN AS THE 386TH AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT) IN THE HAIPHONG AREA.

LT. COL. IVANOV CLAIMED THAT ALTHOUGH HE SAW AMERICAN PLANES SHOT DOWN IN THE DISTANCE, HE DID NOT HAVE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENTS.

LT. COL. IVANOV STATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE VERY STRICT ABOUT NOT ALLOWING SOVIETS ACCESS TO CRASH SITES OR AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR. LT. COL. IVANOV ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYONE WHO PERSONALLY REQUESTED ACCESS TO AMERICANS, HOWEVER, IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT ALLOW SOVIET PERSONNEL ACCESS TO AMERICANS.

IVANOV CONTINUED THAT IT WAS ALSO KNOWN THAT THE VIETNAMESE ALLOWED CHINESE MILITARY PERSONNEL ACCESS TO AMERICAN CRASH SITES. HE COULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC. IVANOV ALSO DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF A SOVIET "SPECIAL GROUP." HE ALSO COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR DEFENSE UNITS ASSIGNED TO THE DRV.

LT. COL. IVANOV SUGGESTED THAT **JCSD**-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES CONTACT LT. COL. (RET.) PAVEL IVANOVICH BUNIN OF SEVASTOPOL, UKRAINE AND COL. VIKTOR PETROVICH PARSHIKOV OF ORSHA, BELARUS' FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. (**JCSD**-MOSCOW NOTE: LT. COL. BUNIN HAS BEEN INTERVIEWED BY **JCSD**-MOSCOW. ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO CONTACT COL. PARSHIKOV.)

LT. COL. IVANOV RESIDES IN ORSHA.

G. COLONEL (RET.) MITROFAN BORISOVICH SUDNIKOV: COL. SUDNIKOV SERVED IN THE DRV IN 1971. HE WAS A MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICER

ASSIGNED TO KIM LIEN. COL. SUDNIKOV CLAIMED THAT HE NEVER SAW ANY AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AND NEVER WITNESSED ANY SHOOTDOWNS. HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF A SOVIET "SPECIAL GROUP." COL. SUDNIKOV ALSO STATED THAT ALL SOVIET MEDICAL PERSONNEL WOULD HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO TREAT ANY INJURED AMERICAN PERSONNEL IF THE CHANCE AROSE DUE TO STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH. COL. SUDNIKOV CLAIMED HE COULD NOT REMEMBER ANY OF HIS FELLOW SERVICEMEN. COL. SUDNIKOV RESIDES IN ORSHA.

H. MAJOR (RET) EDUARD MARKOVICH KOZLOV: ACCORDING TO MRS. KOZLOV, MAJOR KOZLOV LEFT THEIR HOUSE ON 9 FEBRUARY 2003 AND NEVER RETURNED. WHEN CONTACTED BY **JCS**D SHE INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT IT WAS ABOUT HER MISSING HUSBAND. **JCS**D-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES ASSURED HER THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF THE CALL. MRS. KOZLOV CONFIRMED THAT HER HUSBAND HAD SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1968-1969 AS A MILITARY TRANSPORTATION AVIATION OFFICER.

MRS. KOZLOV THEN CLAIMED THAT HER GRANDFATHER WAS AN MIA FROM WORLD WAR II. SHE EXPLAINED TO **JCS**D-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES THAT SHE HAD CONTACTED THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT HER GRANDFATHER AND WAS TOLD THAT HER GRANDFATHER HAD INDEED BEEN CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS AND HAD PROBABLY IMMIGRATED TO AMERICA AFTER THE WAR. MRS. KOZLOV STATED SHE WOULD SEND HER GRANDFATHER'S INFORMATION TO **JCS**D-MOSCOW. **JCS**D-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED HER THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT ASSISTANCE THEY COULD BE TO HER; HOWEVER, IF THEY DID FIND OUT ANY INFORMATION THEY WOULD PASS IT ALONG TO HER THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS. MAJ. KOZLOV LIVED IN VITEBSK.

I. SERGEANT VITALIJ ALEKSANDROVICH TSEMASHKOV: MR. TSEMASHKOV CONFIRMED HE HAD SERVED IN VIETNAM BUT WELL AFTER THE WAR (1985-1986). MR. TSEMASHKOV STATED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT CAPTURED OR MISSING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. HE ALSO DID NOT HEAR ANY RUMORS OF SUCH WHILE STATIONED IN VIETNAM. MR. TSEMASHKOV RESIDES IN VITEBSK.

3. DECEASED **VETERANS**. THE FOLLOWING VITEBSKAYA OBLAST SOUTHEAST ASIA **VETERANS** ARE DECEASED:

A. ALEKSANDER TIMOFEEVICH BOGDANOVICH: BOGDANOVICH SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1968-1969. HE LIVED IN POLOTSK.

B. VLADIMIR BULYANOV: BULYANOV SERVED IN THE DRV. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

C. NIKOLAJ PETROVICH BUCHAEK: BUCHAEK WAS A VTA OFFICER WHO SERVED IN LAOS AND THE DRV IN 1961. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

D. ALGERADAS GRIKHSTA: GRIKHSTA SERVED IN THE DRV. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

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E. COL. PETR EGOROVICH DOROSHCHENKOV: COL. DOROSHCHENKOV WAS AN AIR DEFENSE OFFICER WHO SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1973-1974. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

F. KONSTANTIN KIREEV: KIREEV SERVED IN THE DRV. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

G. MIKHAIL ALEKSEEVICH KONOPLEV: KONOPLEV WAS AN AIR DEFENSE OFFICER WHO SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1965-1966. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

H. GRIGORIY IVANOVICH KOSTENKO: KOSTENKO SERVED IN THE DRV. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

I. ANATOLIY IVANOVICH OSIPOV: OSIPOV SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1966-1967. HE LIVED IN ORSHA.

J. VLADIMIR NIKOLAEVICH STREL'TSOV: STREL'TSOV SERVED IN THE DRV IN 1965. HE LIVED IN ORSHA.

K. COL. VILIJ PETROVICH TIMOSHCHENKO: COL. TIMOSHCHENKO SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1969-1970. HE LIVED IN VITEBSK.

4. "UNREACHABLE" **VETERANS**. THE FOLLOWING **VETERANS** COULD NOT BE CONTACTED (**JCSD**-MOSCOW NOTE: ONLY COL. PARSHIKOV IS CONFIRMED TO BE ALIVE. **JCSD**-MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT HIM VIA TELEPHONE.)

A. ANATOLIY IVANOVICH KLOPOV: KLOPOV SERVED IN DRV 1966-1967. HIS LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WAS IN NOVOPOLOTSK.

B. VIKTOR PETROVICH PARSHIKOV: SERVED IN DRV 1967-1968. RESIDES IN ORSHA (**JCSD**-MOSCOW NOTE: SEE IVANOV ENTRY.)

C. VLADIMIR ALEKSEEVICH TARAN: TARAN SERVED IN DRV 1968-1969. HIS LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WAS LEPEL'.

D. VADIM IVANOVICH FEDOROV: FEDOROV SERVED AS A VTA OFFICER IN LAOS 1961. HIS LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WAS IN VITEBSK.

5. CONCLUSIONS. THE ABOVE LISTED **VETERANS** WERE THE LAST KNOWN SOVIET SOUTHEAST ASIA **VETERANS** REQUIRING INTERVIEWS IN THE VITEBSKAYA OBLAST. **JCSD**-MOSCOW WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO CONTACT THE **VETERANS** LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 4. IF ANY OF THE **VETERANS** IN PARAGRAPH 4 REQUIRE AN "IN PERSON" **INTERVIEW** THIS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING UP-COMING VISITS TO BELARUS'.

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